supplement not the Monthly Newsletter and copies of these are regularly supplied to the Parliament Library.

[Translation]

Staff Shortage in Regional Rural Banks

3687. DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the Regional Rural Banks are facing staff shortage;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the staff shortage is adversely affecting the functioning of these Banks; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to provide adequate staff to the Regional Rural Banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d) Most of the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) have relatively high establishment costs relative to the volume of business. In order to contain the expenditure on establishment and thereby improve the viability of the RRBs, they have been advised not to undertake any recruitment, save in exceptional situations, without prior approval of Government. RRBs, however, may make a request for fresh recruitment. The request for additional staff has to be based on a thorough assessment of their work-load in terms of volumes and amount of business and the scope for optimal utilization of existing manpower and should be recommended by the sponsor banks and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

[English]

Joint Sampling of Coal

3688. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received some proposals/suggestions from the Government of Gujarat regarding joint sampling of coal during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals/suggestions received; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) A reference on joint sampling of coal despatches to Gujarat thermal power stations was received with the suggestion that the joint sampling may be reverted back to the power station end.

(c) The dispute on the venue of joint sampling of coal is common to most of the thermal power stations. After careful consideration it has been decided by the Government that joint sampling will be undertaken at the loading point.

Losses in H.M.T.

3689. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Lamps Division of HMT Hyderabad is being closed down; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and how the surplus staff is likely to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Badla System

3690. SHRI O.P. JINDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has decided to review the present 'Badla' system prevalent in share market in Bombay;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it would affect the market in any way; and

(d) if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of answer to (a) above.

[English]

Demand for Indemnity Bond by S.B.I. from Pensioners

3691. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether nationalised banks are authorised to demand Indemnity Bond in addition to the letter of undertaking, from first time pensioners who opt to receive pension through banks after retirement;

(b) whether some branches of the Meerut Zone of

State Bank of India have refused to 'release' pension unless the pensioner complies with bank's demand of Indemnity Bond;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial and compensatory measures contemplated for the benefit of pensioners under such circumstances?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that nationalised banks are not authorised by it to demand indemnity bond in addition to the letter of undertaking, from first time pensioners who opt to receive pension through banks after retirement.

(b) State Bank of India (SBI) have reported that no instance of its branches having refused to release pension in the absence of Indemnity Bond has come to its notice.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Duty on Antibacterial Drug

3692. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the details of duty on imports of 3-4-5 trimethoxy benzaldehyde an antibacterial drug originating from China?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : 3-4-5 Trimethoxy benzaldehyde, when exported from People's Republic of China into India, is liable to the following duties of customs :

(i)	Basic Customs Duty	—	40% ad valorem
(ii)	Special Customs Duty	—	2% ad valorem
(iii)	Additional Duty of Customs	—	20% ad valorem
(iv)	Anti-dumping Duty	—	Rs. 237/- per kg.

Foreign Loan

3693. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of loans given to foreign countries by India upto March 31, 1996 alongwith the rate of interest chargeable country-wise;

(b) the details of recovery of loan given by India; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the foreign countries who have failed to repay the loans?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) A statement is attached.

(c) Efforts have been made through bilateral channels to effect recovery of GOI loans and some measure of success has been achieved in Vietnam, Uganda etc. Consistent default is also factored into consideration of further credits to defaulter countries.

STATEMENT

Govt. with whom credit agreement entered into and year of agreement			Amount of Credit as per agreement (Rs. Million)	Repayment Outstanding
1	2		3	4
1	Vietnam Rescheduled (78, 80, 81, 82, 84)			41,626,400
2.	Sri Lanka	1981	100	nil
3.	Sri Lanka	1978	100	nil
4.	Sri Lanka	1979	100	nil
5.	Sri Lanka	1987	250	nil
6.	Mauritius	1984	50	nil
7.	Mauritius	1978	100	nil
8.	Ghana	1981	50	3,557,930.43
9.	Mozambique	1981	40	39,853,170.46